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BOPC Meeting

The Mission of the Kansas City Missouri Police Department, in partnership with the community, is to protect life and property while reducing fear and disorder.

### Vision

The KCPD is a premier police agency with a national reputation for excellence that provides innovative and equitable police service to its community through a highly motivated and engaged workforce.

The Informant is a publication of KCPD's Media Unit  
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# INFORMANT

The Kansas City Missouri Police Department

December 2010

## Board Signs MOU, Recognizes FOP

**The memorandum recognizes the Fraternal Order of Police as sole bargaining unit**

History took place Nov. 30 as the Board of Police Commissioners officially recognized the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 99 as the bargaining unit for all non-command law enforcement personnel.

The Board, FOP leaders and Chief James Corwin formally signed the memorandum of understanding (MOU) at the Board's meeting.

"This is a big deal for the Board and the Department," Board President Patrick McInerney said.

FOP President Sergeant Brad Dumit said this agreement has been in the making for the past 10 to 15 years. He said it all came together now because of depart-



**FOP Vice President Detective Terry Carter signed the memorandum of understanding at a ceremony at the Nov. 30 Board meeting.**

ment members, command staff and board members who were willing to work together to make KCPD better. McInerney concurred.

"The negotiations were always square, and there was a lot of candor and partnership on both sides," McInerney said.

*Continued on p. 3*

## KCPD Unveils Alternative Fuel Vehicles

**Several KCPD vehicles are being converted to run on compressed natural gas**

KCPD's fleet of vehicles uses 1.3 million gallons of fuel a year, and some of that is getting lighter, cheaper and greener.

Two new, compressed natural gas (CNG) Chevrolet Impalas will hit the streets around the first of the year, and up to 10 of the department's existing Ford Crown Victorias could be converted to run on natural gas soon.

Kansas City received a grant from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to convert vehicles to run on CNG. City Fleet Administrator Sam Swearngin asked the police department's Fleet Unit leaders if they would be interested, and they were.

"I think a big selling point was the energy security of natural gas," Swearngin said. "Ninety-eight percent of it comes from North America."

Fleet Operations Unit Supervisor Darrell Cooper said fuel cost was a big consideration for the department as well.



**KCPD has purchased two Chevy Impalas that run on CNG. The tanks are located in the cars' trunks. Ten Crown Victorias will be converted next.**

*Continued on p. 3*

# Remodel of Communications Unit starts Dec. 14

**The Communications Unit will move to the backup call center at 1328 Agnes while the unit is updated**

When dispatchers send officers out on a call, they must rely on 911 callers to know what's happening at the scene. But soon, dispatchers will be able to access live video from cameras city-wide and provide first-hand accounts to responding officers.

"If we know there's an incident where a camera is located, we should be able to pull up the video before the officers arrive," Communications Manager Steve Hoskins said.

This new video technology is part of a \$50 million project to replace the City's radio system and completely remodel the police department's 911 call center at 1111 Locust St.

With these improvements, the department will be able to communicate directly with other law enforcement agencies, as well as provide more accurate information to officers who are responding to calls.

The Communications Unit will relocate to the backup call center at 1328 Agnes on Dec. 14, and construction on the call center at 1111 Locust is scheduled to begin the following week.

The remodel includes a new video wall, where they can pull up live footage from cameras throughout the city, including KC Scout cameras, Operation Green Light cameras, and several others. The Commu-



**Dispatcher Jane Hill dispatches calls at the Communication Unit, 1111 Locust St. The unit will be remodeled with a new radio system, video wall, and workstations.**

nications Unit also will have access to multiple media sources during critical incidents or severe weather.

The remodel of the Communications Unit also includes tearing down a wall that currently divides 911 call takers from the police dispatchers. The center's tiered flooring will be ripped out to put all the workstations on a single level. This will allow for the addition of two workstations and more efficient use of the space.

The workstations also will be replaced with versions that can be raised and lowered, allowing staff members to sit or stand as they take or make calls.

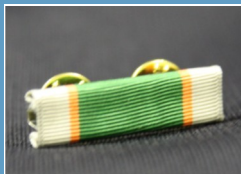
"When you spend 8 to 12 hours tethered to your station by your headset, you need a break to be able to stand up and move around," Hoskins said.

One other major change will be the replacement of the 15-year old radio system. The new version will be online in the spring and will greatly enhance regional interoperability. It will be interconnected with the radio systems of all cities in Johnson County, Kan., and Independence, Mo. The cities of Riverside, Gladstone, and North Kansas City are going to transition to the Kansas City radio system, rather than maintain their own radio systems.

## News in Brief

### Military service recognized

The KCPD has added a Military Service Award to its ribbon bar to recognize department members' contribution and service to their country. The ribbon is available for sworn and non-sworn department members with prior military service and members who are currently serving in active-duty or in a reserve capacity for the United States Armed Forces.



### Police officers recognized at MCSA Awards for Valor ceremony

Nine KCPD officers were awarded Awards for Valor on Nov. 19 at the 2010 Metropolitan Chiefs and Sheriffs Association Awards for Valor

ceremony. This year, 38 law enforcement personnel from across the metro were recognized for their selfless and heroic service.

### Target awards SPD grant for property crimes investigations

The Target at 135th and State Line Road recently awarded a \$2,500 grant and two laptops to the KCPD South Patrol Division. The grant will be used to purchase equipment to assist in property crimes investigations.





## FOP MOU, CONT. FROM P. 1

The memorandum recognizes the FOP as the sole bargaining unit for all sworn personnel under the rank of captain. The City of Kansas City and Jackson County also have passed resolutions recognizing the FOP.

"We now have a legitimate voice in future policies," Sergeant Dumit said.

Some of the issues on the FOP's plate, according to Dumit, are health care, pay and residency requirements. He said the FOP already has been active in lobbying city officials for the extension of the public safety sales tax, helping them to see the needs of the funds from officers' points of view.

**"We now have a legitimate voice in future policies."**

- Sergeant Brad Dumit,  
FOP President

The memorandum signed Nov. 30 prevents any department member from being discriminated against for being part of FOP, but it also says no

member should be coerced into joining the organization. The FOP also promised in the memorandum not to go on strike at any point in the future. In the event that officers have to be laid off or ranks reduced, the memorandum states officers would be let go or demoted in reverse order of seniority – meaning those with the least time on would have to leave first.

The department also has set up a new position in the Chief's Office under the terms of the MOU. Officer Steve Miller has filled this first-ever FOP-department liaison spot. His primary duties are to represent officers and the FOP in grievance and discipline matters.

Chief Corwin said he is glad the department has reached this agreement.

The memorandum signed Nov. 30 prevents any department member from being discriminated against for being part of FOP, but it also says no

## VEHICLES, CONT. FROM P. 1

"We're doing this in case gas goes to \$4 a gallon again," Cooper said.

CNG runs about \$1.40 a gallon currently and doesn't experience the price spikes gasoline does, Swearngin said. It also burns 30 to 90 percent cleaner than gas, depending on the age of the cars (older cars burn gasoline dirtier) and is thus more environmentally friendly. CNG vehicles get nearly the same amount

of miles per gallon as gasoline ones – about 1 mpg less for CNG.

The City has been running natural gas vehicles since 1996 and now has about 250 of them, including buses at KCI airport. Swearngin said he's excited to get KCPD on board.

The two CNG Impalas will serve as administrative cars for commanders or detectives, Cooper said. They won't be patrol cars because of the trunk space the 12 gallon CNG tank occupies. The fuel is less likely than gas to ignite in a crash.

Police can use four CNG fueling stations throughout the city, and Swearngin said a fifth could be constructed soon.

The sticking point with CNG is that vehicles that use it don't come cheaply. Cooper said the Honda Civic is the only vehicle manufac-

tured to run on CNG – all others are converted after-market. The Impalas KCPD purchased cost about \$21,000 a piece, but

each cost an additional \$14,000 to convert to CNG. To convert Crown Victorias would be a similar expense. Swearngin said the only way to make the conversion now is through grants, like the one the City now has.

"Our entire society subsidizes foreign oil to the point it makes alternatives non-competitive," Swearngin said.

The City is lobbying Congress to pass legislation to make it easier for governments to get CNG vehicles.

### Compressed Natural Gas by the numbers

**\$1.40** - Current cost per gallon  
**\$14,000** - Cost to convert a KCPD car to run on CNG  
**30-90%** - How much cleaner CNG burns than gasoline  
**12** - Total KCPD CNG cars

## Officially Speaking ...

### Awards

#### *Special Unit Citation*

Metro Patrol Division Watch I and Detective Robert Gibbs

#### *Certificate of Commendation*

Officer Gregory Caudle  
Officer Kenneth Davis  
Officer Oley Denmark  
Officer Brandon Harpold  
Officer Cole Massey  
Officer J.D. Pettet  
Detective Michael Satter  
Officer Philip Sipple  
Officer Zachary Weinzat

### 25-Year Rings

Human Resources Specialist Treopie Drummer  
Detective James Svoboda  
Supervisor Regina Wagner

### Promotions

#### *To Major*

Melvin Harvey  
Rich Lockhart

#### *To Captain*

Darrel A. Bergquist  
Jeffrey Kleinow  
Thad Seever  
Karen True  
Steve Young

#### *To Sergeant*

Lisa Allender  
Clifford Balicki  
Jeffrey Cowdrey  
Craig Grote  
Justin Kobolt  
Steven A. Miller  
James Swoboda

#### *To Master Detective*

Timothy Mountz

#### *To Supervisor*

Renee Gatewood  
Margaret Harman  
Lori Keller  
Melissa McLaughlin

### Retirements

Master Police Officer Timothy Brewer  
Sergeant Charles McMullin  
Officer Ricci Neilson

### Obituaries

Retired Civilian Harland (Dean) Bain  
Retired Officer Oscar Dickinson  
Retired Major John McLaury  
Retired Officer Roger Strope



## Off the Clock:

## Officers, Firefighters Fight for a Good Cause

### KCPD officers competed in the Guns 'N Hoses Charity Boxing Match

Detective Kevin Boehm is used to challenging sports. He stays fit and competes in triathlons regularly, but all his training didn't prepare him for the challenge of the 6th Annual KC Guns 'N Hoses Charity Boxing Tournament on Nov. 20.

"I've been through the Ironman, and I thought—three minutes in the ring, how hard could that be?" Detective Boehm said. "The boxing training I went through, I was spent. I have a new-found appreciation for boxers."

KCPD was represented by Boehm, Master Patrol Officer Michael Briggs and Police Officer Antoney Perez. The three men were among over 60 firefighters, police officers, and EMT personnel within the metro area who participated.



Submitted photo

**Detective Kevin Boehm (left) won his bout against Topeka Firefighter Frank Rodriguez (right).**

The event raises funds for the Kansas City Crime Commission's S.A.F.E. Program, which provides financial assistance to the families of local emergency service personnel killed in the line of duty. Funds also go to buy equipment for youth boxing programs.

"It's a good cause. It gives younger kids an opportunity to get off the streets and do something positive," said Perez, who took 1st place in his bout.

For Detective Boehm, this was his first experience boxing. But both M.P.O. Briggs and Officer Perez have com-

peted in Guns 'N Hoses in the past. Perez started boxing last year and now coaches youths at the Police Athletic League.

The tournament matches police officers up against firefighters and EMT personnel. They're matched based on age, weight, and experience. For Boehm, that became a problem with his trim triathlon build.

"They couldn't find anyone in my range," Boehm said. "They had to recruit a firefighter from Topeka to fight."

Competitors don't have to have previous boxing experience, but everyone is required to take a minimum of 15 training sessions. They receive training at boxing gyms and get advice from their coaching staff.

Perez said he plans to compete next year, but Boehm said one year was enough for him.

"It was fun, and it is a neat sport, but I'm happy to be back on the bike again," he said.

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